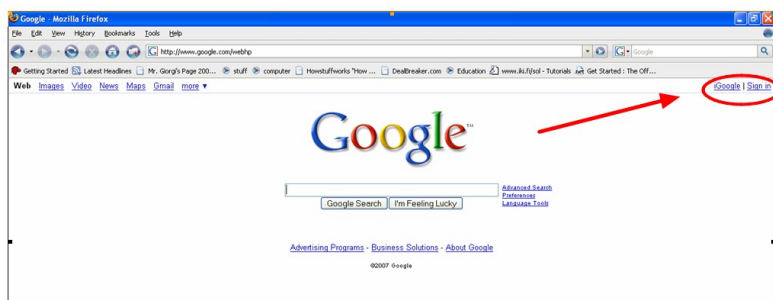


Working with Google and Blogger: Posts and Comments

Web 2.0: A platform to serve dynamic content to students

1. In this session we will take a tour and setup Blogger and learn how to use various web services available from Google and others.

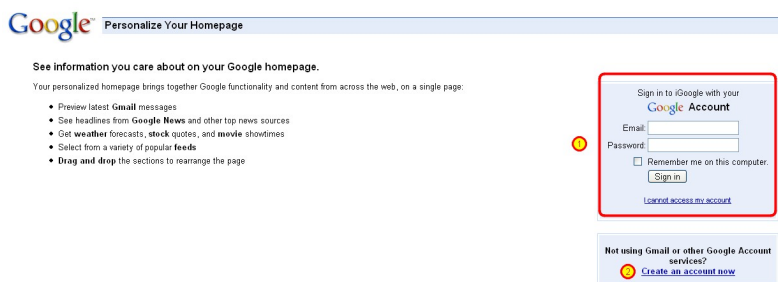
2. You can have a customized page at Google if you have an account or you can sign in to create an account to access the services. For the purposes of using these services in the classroom, we will not be using "Gmail" or the "Page Creator" since they both require you to register using a cell phone number. We are going to use the other services and center our efforts around Blogger, a friendly technology that has been used at New Hope. which will give us a platform to serve a lot of content to students.



Google Account Page

1. If you have an account, you already know how to sign in

2. Click on "Create an account now."



Create an Account

1. Fill out the required information
2. Make sure to pay attention to the Word Verification (this can be hard to read)
3. Click the "Accept the terms of service" button on the bottom of the page below the "Word Verification."

Create an Account

Your Google Account gives you access to iGoogle and [other Google services](#). If you already have a Google Account, you can [sign in here](#).

The screenshot shows the 'Required information for Google account' form. It includes fields for 'Your current email address', 'Choose a password', and 'Re-enter password'. A red circle with the number '1' is placed over the 'Re-enter password' field. Below the password fields is a checkbox for 'Remember me on this computer.' and a paragraph about Web History with a 'Learn More' link. A checkbox for 'Enable Web History' is checked. Below this is the 'Get started with iGoogle' section, which has a 'Location' dropdown set to 'United States' and a 'Word Verification' section. The 'Word Verification' section shows a distorted image of the word 'morgue' and a text input field. A red circle with the number '2' is over the input field, and a red circle with the number '3' is over the 'Word Verification' image. A red arrow points from the '3' circle to the input field. Below the input field is a small icon of a person and the text 'Letters are not case-sensitive'.

Google Account Page

1. The My Account page in Google is the main place where you can add and remove services.
2. The "Try something new" is good short list, but the "more" tab is worth checking out as some of the best stuff is in Google Labs.

Please note: If you want a Gmail account you will need to provide a cell phone number to get an access code. Google does this to prevent malicious internet users from creating accounts.

The screenshot shows the 'My services' section of the Google Account page. A red box highlights the list of services: Blogger, Calendar, Co-op - My Search Engines, Docs and Spreadsheets, iGoogle - Add content, Notebook, Reader - Settings, and Web History. A red circle with the number '1' is placed over the 'My services' header. Below this is the 'Try something new' section, which lists: Gmail - Get a fresh start with email that has less spam, AdWords - Find buyers searching for what you sell, Alerts - Receive news and search results via email, Groups - Create mailing lists and discussion groups, and a 'More >' link. A red circle with the number '2' is placed over the 'Try something new' section, and a red arrow points from the '2' circle to the 'More >' link.




Services you can choose to add

Blogger is going to be the platform we use to serve the applications. For right now we will just take a look at the following programs:








1. Blogger
2. Creating a custom search engine
3. Labs (where more services and applications are available)
4. Docs and Spreadsheets

We are going to add Blogger and create our blog website.

Explore and innovate

-  [Code](#)
Download APIs and open source code
-  [Co-op](#) - now with [Custom Search Engine](#) ^{New!}
Contribute your expertise and customize the web search experience
-  [Labs](#)
Explore Google's technology playground

Communicate, show & share

-  [Blogger](#)
Share your life online with a blog -- it's fast, easy, and free
-  [Calendar](#)
Organize your schedule and share events with friends
-  [Docs & Spreadsheets](#)
Create and share your projects online and access them from anywhere
-  [Gmail](#)
Fast, searchable email with less spam
-  [Groups](#)
Create mailing lists and discussion groups
-  [Orkut](#)
Meet new people and stay in touch with friends
-  [Picasa](#)
Find, edit and share your photos

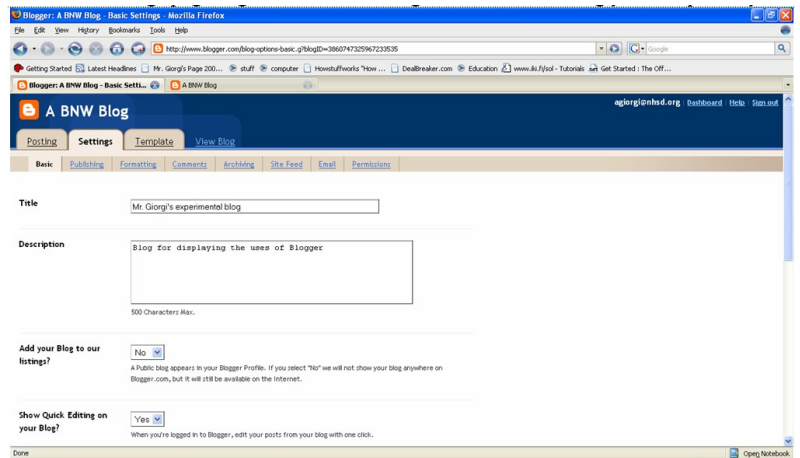
Blogger

1. The Blogger dashboard is where you can make new posts, edit and delete posts, and change the look and feel of your blog.
2. You can also edit your Blogger profile here and add a picture.



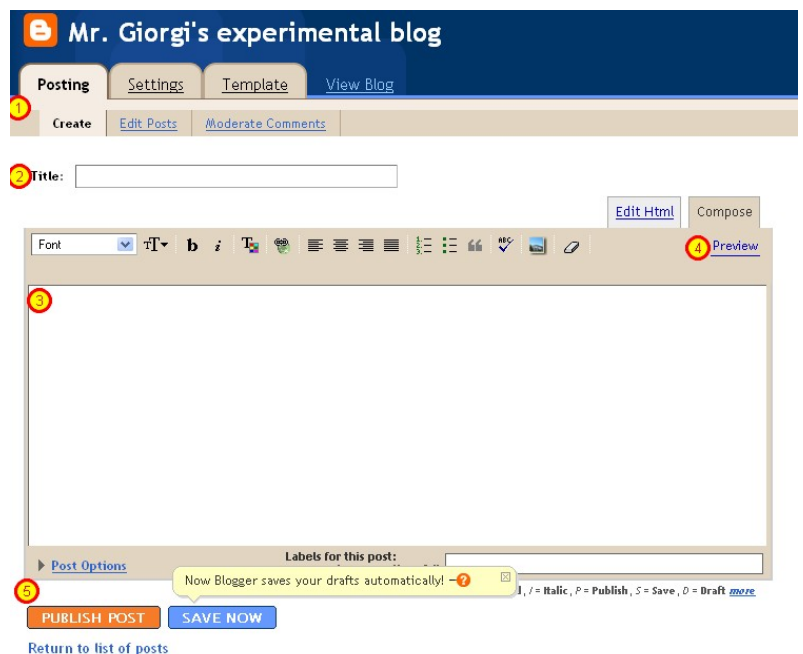
Blogger's Control Panel

The basic settings page is good for establishing a title and not listing yourself publicly



Creating a Post

1. Click on Posting Tab and the Select the Create tab
2. Type your title
3. Type you message.
4. You can preview it.
5. Publish Post



Sample Post with Text

The screenshot shows the Blogger 'Compose' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Posting', 'Settings', 'Template', and 'View Blog'. Below these are links for 'Create', 'Edit Posts', and 'Moderate Comments'. The 'Title' field is set to 'Sample Post'. On the right, there are buttons for 'Edit HTML' and 'Compose', and a 'Preview' link. The main text area contains the text: 'This is a sample post. As you can see this text editor works like a regular word processor. As you type Blogger will save your work. You can **bold text**, *italicize text*, and even add a picture:'. Below the text area, there is a 'Post Options' section with a 'Labels for this post:' field. A yellow tooltip says 'Now Blogger saves your drafts automatically!'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'PUBLISH POST' and 'SAVED', and a status message 'Draft autosaved at 3:35 PM'. A link 'Return to list of posts' is also present.

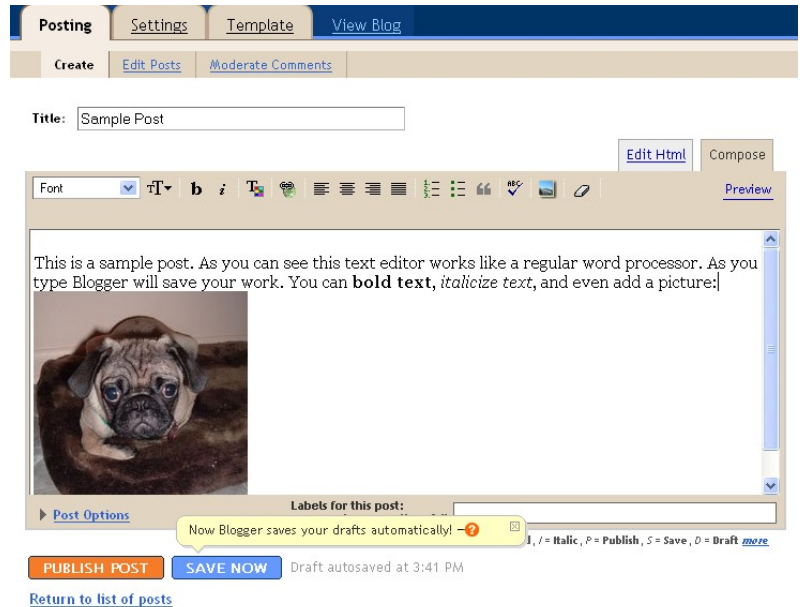
Adding an image to your blog message

1. Click on the image button (note in the previous step) and you will see this popup.
2. Choose your layout
3. Click on browse and select your image (this is just like opening a file in windows explorer)
4. Click upload

The screenshot shows the 'Blogger: Upload Images' dialog box in Mozilla Firefox. The title bar reads 'http://www.blogger.com - Blogger: Upload Images - Mozilla Firefox'. The dialog has two main sections: 'Add an image from your computer' and 'Or add an image from the web'. The first section has a text input field for the file path (showing 'C:\Documents and Settings\...') and a 'Browse...' button. The second section has a 'URL' input field and a 'Learn more' link. Below these sections is a 'Choose a layout.' section with four radio button options: 'None', 'Left', 'Center', and 'Right'. To the right of these is an 'Image size' section with three radio button options: 'Small', 'Medium' (which is selected), and 'Large'. There is also a checkbox for 'Use this layout every time?' which is checked. At the bottom, there are 'CANCEL' and 'UPLOAD IMAGE' buttons, and a checkbox for 'I accept the Terms of Service (Updated 12/13/06)'. The dialog box is overlaid on the Blogger 'Compose' interface, which is partially visible at the bottom.

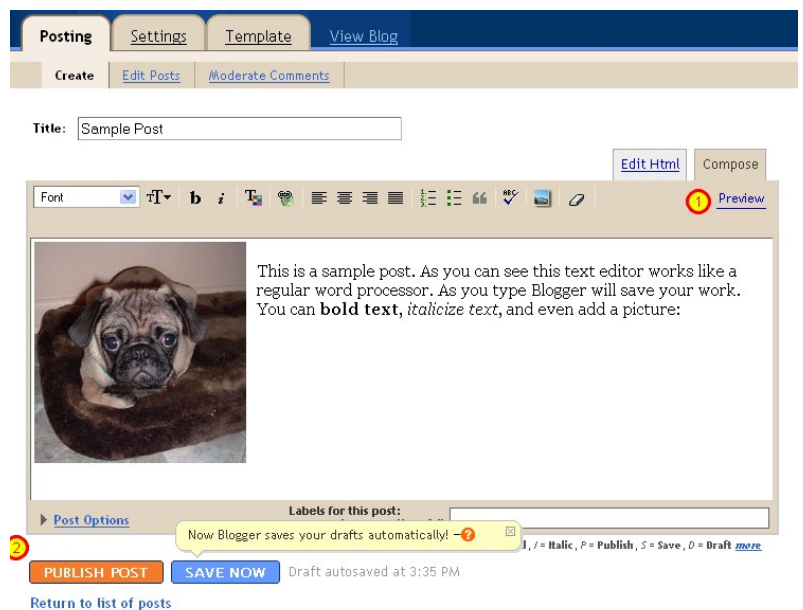
Picture Placement

Note if you don't like the picture placement, you can literally grab with the mouse and move it. In this case, the picture has been moved to the end of the text.

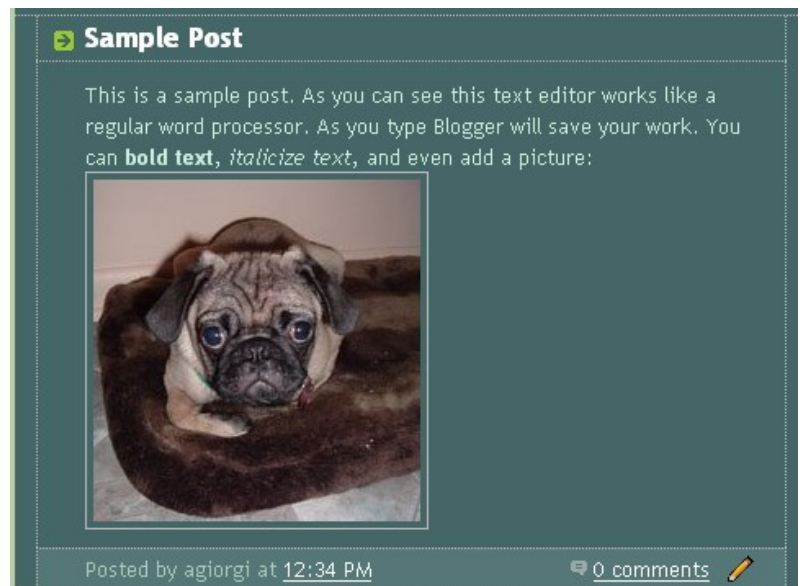


Post with the Picture Added

Once the post is completed you can preview it (1) or or you can publish it (2).



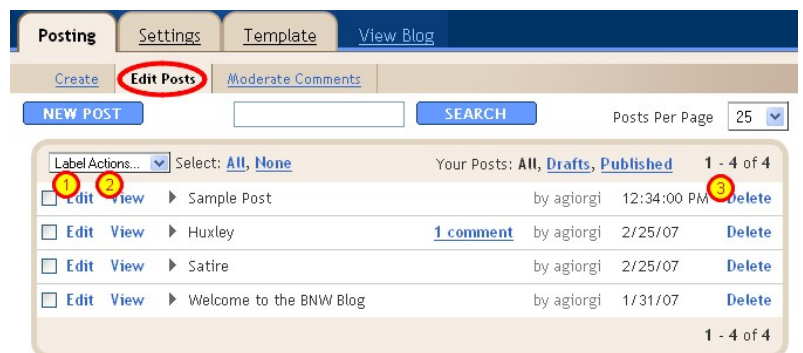
Results of the Sample Post



Editing Posts

Nothing is set in stone. If you click on the Edit Posts tab you will find that you can:

1. Edit: which opens up the text editor we just used to create our sample post.
2. View: Allows you to view the post in your blog.
3. Delete: If you want to get rid of the post.



Settings tab

The basic settings page is good for establishing a title (1) and description (2).

3. It is also where you can decide to list yourself publicly.

In addition to the Basic Tab, we will look at the Publishing Tab and the Comments Tab.

The screenshot shows the Blogger Settings page with the 'Basic' tab selected. The 'Title' field is labeled with a red circle and the number 1, containing the text 'Mr. Giorgi's experimental blog'. The 'Description' field is labeled with a red circle and the number 2, containing the text 'Blog for displaying the uses of Blogger'. Below the description field, it says '500 Characters Max.'. The 'Add your Blog to our listings?' section has a dropdown menu set to 'No', with a red circle and the number 3 next to it. Below this, there is a note: 'A Public blog appears in your Blogger Profile. If you select "No" we will not show your blog anywhere on Blogger.com, but it will still be available on the Internet.'. The 'Show Quick Editing on' section has a dropdown menu set to 'Yes'.

Publishing Tab

1. Shows your Blogspot Address. Everything depends on availability.

The screenshot shows the Blogger Settings page with the 'Publishing' tab selected. The 'You're publishing on blogspot.com' section is visible. Below this, there is a 'Switch to:' section with a dropdown menu set to 'Custom Domain'. A hint is provided: 'Hint: If you want to publish to an external FTP server, you will need to set 'Blog Readers' to 'Anybody' and use a Classic Template.'. The 'Blog*Spot Address' section is highlighted with a red box, showing the text 'http:// mrgiorgi .blogspot.com' and 'Subject to availability.'. Below this, the 'Send Pings' section has a dropdown menu set to 'No'. At the bottom, there is an orange 'Save Settings' button.

Comments Tab

Allows you to control the comments displayed on your blog.

1. Show or hide comments

2. Who is allowed to comment: anyone, registered users, or only members of the blog.

3. Decide if you want to have new posts allow or disallow comments

Comments 1 ☒ Show ☐ Hide

Note: Selecting "Hide" does not delete existing comments - You can show them at any time by re-selecting "Show".

Who Can Comment? 2

Comments Default for Posts 3

Backlinks ☐ Show ☒ Hide 4

Note: Selecting "Hide" does not delete backlinks - You can show them at any time by re-selecting "Show".

Backlinks Default for Posts

Comments Timestamp Format

Comment Form Message

You can use some HTML tags, such as , <i>, <a>

Comments Tab Continued

Perhaps the most important control you can exercise is the ability to moderate comments:

1. Enable comment moderation and be notified by email whenever a comment is left.

2. Show word verification makes sure that visitors leaving comments fill out a verification form like we did when we signed up for a Google account.

3. Comments Notification Address allows you to know and approve comments.

Show comments in a popup window? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Enable comment moderation? 1 ☒ Yes ☐ No 2

Email address

We will email you at this address when a non-member leaves a comment on your blog. Leave blank if you don't want to receive these emails.

Show word verification for comments? 2 ☒ Yes ☐ No 3

Blog authors will not see word verification for comments.

Show profile images on comments? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comment Notification Address 3

We will email you at this address when someone leaves a comment on your blog.

Save Settings

Comment Form

This is what the visitor will see when they leave a comment. Notice the verification form and the message informing the visitor that the comment must be approved.

Your comment has been saved and will be visible after blog owner approval.

Comment On: [Mr. Giorgi's experimental blog](#)

Post by: [Anonymous](#) - [Show Original Post](#)

Leave your comment

You can use some HTML tags, such as ``, `<i>`, `<a>`

Comment moderation has been enabled. All comments must be approved by the blog author.

WORD VERIFICATION

Type the characters you see in the picture above.

Email Approval for comments

After the visitor leaves a comment, you will be notified by email.

1. Publish the comment
2. Reject it
3. The Moderate link will take you to the moderate tab we saw earlier (shown in the next example).

Reply Reply to All Forward Move Delete Close

[Mr. Giorgi's experimental blog] New comment on Sample Post.
Anonymous [noreply-comment@blogger.com]

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007 5:02 PM
To: Giorgi, Andrew

Anonymous has left a new comment on your post "[Sample Post](#)";

This is my sample comment

[Publish](#) this comment.
[Reject](#) this comment.
[Moderate](#) comments for this blog.

Posted by Anonymous to [Mr. Giorgi's experimental blog](#) at July 12, 2007 2:02 PM

Moderate Comments Tab

Away from email? No problem, just check in with Blogger's Moderate Comments tab and Publish (1) or Reject (2) comments. If you have a lot of comments you can select all or reject all.

Posting Settings Template View Blog

Create Edit Posts Moderate Comments

Unreviewed Comments (Sort: [Post Name](#), Comment Date) Comments per page: 50

Select: [All](#) [None](#)

PUBLISH **REJECT** 1 - 1 of 1

☐ This is my sample comment (Anonymous) 2:02 PM

PUBLISH **REJECT** 1 - 1 of 1

[Select: All None](#)

At this point you can have an online asynchronous class discussion and have complete control the posts that are on the site.

In the next module, we will look at adding content.